

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 5345

DEPARTMENT PASS USOAS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CU, NU

SUBJECT: GON ANTI-CUBAN CAMPAIGN

SUMMARY: GON IS TYING RETURN TO NICARAGUA FROM CUBA OF FSLN
TERRORISTS WHO HAVE RESUMED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY TO CUBAN INTERVENTION.
GON PLANS TO MAKE CHARGE IN UNGA AND POSSIBLY OAS. END SUMMARY

1. ON NOVEMBER 16, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE
ATTACKING CUBA FOR CONTINUED INTERVENTIONIST ACTIVITIES AND DENYING
GON INVOLVEMENT IN CUBAN EXILE ACTIVITY AGAINST CUBA. GON POSITION
IS BASED ON RETURN TO GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN NICARAGUA OF THREE
FSLN MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN DECEMBER 1974 LOS ROBLES TERRORIST
INCIDENT OR WERE FREED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THAT INCIDENT AND WERE
FLOWN TO CUBA. THEIR RETURN TO GUERRILLA ACTIVITY FROM CUBA
"IS CONTRARY TO THE OBLIGATION OF STATES WHICH CONCEDE ASYLUM TO
PREVENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF THE ASYLEES."

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2. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO RESPONDED TO CASTRO'S OCTOBER 15 SPEECH WHICH MENTIONED NICARAGUA AS A COUNTRY WHICH OFFERS A BASE OF OPERATIONS TO COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY CUBANS FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST CUBA, PANAMA, JAMAICA AND GUYANA. THE GON RESTATED ITS REPUDIATION OF TERRORIST ACTS AND WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN THE PREVENTION OF SUCH ACTS AND DENIED AUTHORIZING ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS.

3. COMMENT: THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS THAT EXPLAIN THE GON'S HEIGHTENED ANTI-CUBAN CAMPAIGN AT THIS TIME: (A) DESIRE NOT TO ALLOW CASTRO'S CONTINUING SUPPORT (TERRORIST TRAINING AND SAFE-HAVEN IN CUBA, FACILITATING TERRORIST TRAVEL, AND PRO-FSLN PROPAGANDA) OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE IN NICARAGUA TO PROCEED WITH IMPUNITY. IT IS SOMOZA'S WAY OF STRIKING BACK AT CASTRO WHO IS SENSITIVE ABOUT ADVERSE INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF BEING ACCUSED OF FOSTERING TERRORISM; (B) COUNTER-OFFENSIVE FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION TO PORTRAY THE FSLN AS DIRECTED AND SUPPORTED BY CUBA WITH LITTLE INDIGENOUS STRENGTH, AND TO COMBAT FSLN PROPAGANDA THAT THE TERRORISTS ARE NATIONAL PATRIOTS COMBATTING NOT ONLY THE SOMOZA "DICTATORSHIP" BUT ALSO U.S. "IMPERIALISM"; (C) CAPITALIZE ON THE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SETBACK TO THE FSLN TERRORISTS RESULTING FROM THE RECENT CAPTURE AND DEATHS OF TOP FSLN LEADERSHIP (INCLUDING FONSECA AMADOR, A CO-FOUNDER OF THE FSLN); (D) DEFENSIVENESS REGARDING CASTRO'S ACCUSATION THAT THE GON HARBORS CUBAN EXILE TERRORISTS. AT THE SAME TIME THE GON WAS GEARING UP TO ANTI-CUBAN CAMPAIGN, A GON REPRESENTATIVE WAS IN HAVANA FOR A NAMUCAR MEETING. THIS SUGGESTS THE GON'S STRONG INTEREST IN AVOIDING REGIONAL ISOLATION ON MATTERS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST TO NICARAGUA, EVEN IF IT INVOLVES COOPERATION WITH CUBA IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS NAMUCAR OR SELA.

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